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Kaddoumi, Yugoslav F.M. confer

LEGRADE, Feb. 4 (R). — Mr. Faruk Kaddoumi, chief of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), discussed the Middle East situation with Yugoslav Foreign Minister Milos Milic here today. Kaddoumi, who flew here last night for an unannounced visit, had a first round of talks with Mr. Milic immediately after arrival. The situation in Lebanon, the situation of the PLO there, international initiatives for a peaceful solution of the Middle East conflict and reconvening of the Geneva Middle East Peace Conference were the main topics during discussions today, officials said. Mr. Kaddoumi and Mr. Milic also exchanged views on the current visit by United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to the Middle East, they added.

Volume 2, Number 378

Egypt, Syria

form joint

political

command

O, Feb. 4 (R). — Egypt and Syria, the two biggest powers in the Arab World today announced the formation of a unified political command setting the seal on the alliance after more than a year of antagonism.

President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and President Hafez Assad of Syria issued decrees in their respective capitals naming representatives in the command, which is designed to coordinate policy, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported.

The 10-man body consists of presidents, their deputies, foreign ministers, defence ministers and defence ministers.

The announcement followed a visit to Cairo yesterday by Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam, who met President Sadat and President Assad.

For the first time, Egypt and Syria have joined forces in the Middle East crisis and the war in Lebanon.

The decision to set up the command was made last December when President Assad visited Egypt.

At the time, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy said the command would lay down the "union between Egypt and Syria," and the presidents said they had discussed "to consolidate the 'march towards unity'."

The presidents left the formal union open, but said joint initiatives, reporting to the command, would study constitutional, defence, national security, foreign affairs, information and economy, education and other affairs.

Besides the two presidents, members of the unified command are: Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak and Syrian Secretary General Abdul Amir Fawzi Mawlawi (Egypt) and Abdul Raziz Khleifi (Syria), Foreign Ministers Ismail Fahmy (Egypt) and Abdul Halim Khaddam (Syria) and Defence Ministers Abdul Ghani Gama (Egypt) and Mustafa Tlas (Syria).

U.S. east coast faces threat of renewed arctic weather conditions

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 (R). — The eastern coast of the United States, which has been hit by the worst winter this century, faced the threat today of renewed arctic weather after a respite from the blizzards and frigid temperatures.

More snow was predicted for the beleaguered city of Buffalo, New York, still digging out from under more than 425 cm (70 in) that have fallen since Jan. 1.

"Thousands of people have been stranded in their homes and thousands more may be stranded if the snow fall is appreciable," said a spokesman for Mayor Stanley Makowski of Buffalo.

The National Weather Service said a fresh surge of arctic air threatened to cover most of the country's eastern half by tomorrow. About 1.5 million motorists have been thrown out of work by the vicious weather and a resulting energy crisis.

North of the border in Canada, a new snow storm hit southern areas of Ontario after a short spell of relatively balmy weather in the province. Some schools were closed and highways blocked by the drifting snow.

A number of buildings in Buffalo have collapsed under the weight of piled-up snow and ice.

The combined cost of snow removal and property damage since Jan. 17 in Erie County, of which Buffalo forms a major part, has reached \$27 million, a county official said.

In much of America's midwest, supplies of natural gas continued to dwindle.

So far 19 states have been affected by the gas shortage. Factories in Illinois and Indiana, the latest states to feel the shortage, have had to shut down.

President Carter's son Chip visited Buffalo today as the city appealed for more federal government aid.

The Carter administration is speeding the passage of west coast gas to the east via a pipeline across Texas.

Federal officials conceded that the new flow of gas was not enough to get the east through its present crisis, but they were hopeful that further emergency supplies would follow.

In Ontario, the weather office said a temperature of one degree centigrade (34 Fahrenheit) recorded yesterday in the city of St. Catharines was the first reading above zero reported in the province this year.

Various American cities have sent snow clearing equipment to Buffalo to replace ploughs which have broken down in the blizzards. But many stalled and buried cars hampered the clean-up operations.



PAVING THE WAY TO GENEVA -- Egyptian President Anwar Sadat (right) talks with U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim in Cairo Friday on the resumption of the Arab-Israeli talks in Geneva. (AP wirephoto).

On Middle East, ties with Africa Rabin pays surprise visit to Geneva to confer with Ivory Coast president

GENEVA, Feb. 4 (R). — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin flew to Geneva today for a secret three-hour meeting with Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouët-Boigny, who is believed to be playing a mediation role in Middle East peace moves.

Observers here believed the visit was part of a series of moves by the Israeli Prime Minister to the latest views of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

On Wednesday of last week, PLO representatives visited President Houphouët-Boigny who has a villa in Geneva, to deliver personal messages from their chief Mr. Yasser Arafat.

A joint communiqué issued by the French-speaking West African state's mission, here, after today's meeting said both sides believed peace efforts in the Middle East should be based on existing United Nations resolutions.

Mr. Rabin later flew home aboard an executive jet less than 24 hours after leaving for Geneva.

In an Israeli television interview after the meeting, Mr. Rabin said he considered the talks to be part of Israel's efforts to renew diplomatic ties with African countries which were severed after the 1973 Middle East war.

Asked whether such meetings could also aid in the arranging of talks between Arab countries and Israel, he said he was less optimistic on that point than on the possible resumption of the African ties.

Israeli sources said Mr. Rabin told the Ivory Coast president that he did not expect peace moves in the Middle East to take shape before September. This was because of forthcoming visits to the area by leading politicians and the Israeli elections in May, the sources said.

The sources said Mr. Rabin explained Israel's views on solving the Palestinian problem.

They quoted him as saying he felt Egypt and Syria were becoming increasingly aware of the role the United States could play in resolving the Middle East issue. Mr. Rabin also stressed the importance of the forthcoming visit to the Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, the sources said.

In his Israeli TV interview, broadcast on Tel Aviv, Mr. Rabin said he believed Israel "must make an effort to renew ties with leaders of African countries and with as many countries as possible in Africa."

"The best way, in the initial stage, is contacts on the highest level to clarify positions and exchange ideas... this way we will be able to return to Africa," he said.

The communiqué said Mr. Rabin and the president had a "profound exchange of views" on the Middle East situation and about diplomatic efforts undertaken in favour of peace in the region.

"They agreed that dialogue is the best way of obtaining

peace in the region," it added.

News of the meeting came as a surprise to observers here. There had been no advance word that Mr. Rabin was flying to Geneva.

Today's communiqué said the dialogue, which the two sides advocated as the best method to achieve peace should be based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 of 1967 and 1973 respectively.

The communiqué said President Houphouët-Boigny also discussed "the role of African countries in international affairs."

The Ivory Coast was now clearly coming out in favour of several years of giving Israel only discreet support in international forums, the observers said.

The Ivory Coast broke off diplomatic relations with Israel, together with most African states, following the 1973 war.

But relations in many fields continued to be close and the Ivory Coast was generally considered among the two or three African nations still very close to Israel.

King Hussein will visit Damascus Sunday

AMMAN, Feb. 4 (R). — His Majesty King Hussein will pay a one-day visit to Damascus on Sunday to discuss the Middle East situation with Syria's President Hafez Assad, the Royal Court announced here today.

Their meeting will follow President Assad's talks tomorrow with United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, who is seeking ways of reviving the Geneva peace conference.

The Royal Court said King Hussein and President Assad would have important talks on unifying their positions and organising common action in the light of political developments.

Dr. Waldheim is due to leave Damascus on Sunday to go to Riyadh. He is scheduled to fly to Amman on Tuesday after visiting Lebanon.

Lebanese President Elias Sarkis was in Damascus two days ago to concert the positions of Lebanon and Syria. President Assad sent Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam to Cairo yesterday to confer with Egyptian leaders.

200,000 demonstrators cheer Ethiopian victor, Col. Mengistu

ADDIS ABABA, Feb. 4 (R). — An estimated 200,000 people jammed Revolution Square here today to cheer Lt.-Col. Mengistu Haile-Mariam, victor in a bloody power struggle among Ethiopia's military rulers.

Col. Mengistu, now reinforced as the country's leader, accused Sudan and Saudi Arabia of supporting the government's enemies and called for the arming of the people to protect the 28-month-old Ethiopian revolution.

The head of state, Brig-Gen. Teferi Bante, was slain yesterday, along with two young captains, who recently attempted to curb Col. Mengistu's authority.

See Col. Mengistu asserts his authority — p. 6

After a gunbattle around the headquarters of the ruling Military Council, the official radio announced that Gen. Teferi and six others were executed for attempting a coup against the revolution.

The government announced today that four supporters of Col. Mengistu also died in yesterday's fighting. They were Dr. Sennaye Likey, a civilian closely associated with the colonel, Lt.-Col. Daniel Asfaw, a member of the ruling council, and two soldiers.

Gen. Teferi was figurehead chairman of the ruling Military Council — the Dergue. The army seized power here in April 1974, toppling emperor Haile Selassie, who later died in captivity.

Col. Mengistu, the First Vice Chairman of the Dergue, is now in both fact and title, the leader of Ethiopia.

The chanting, high-spirited marchers who converged on Revolution Square today waved banners and Ethiopian flags. Some of the slogans attacked "American imperialism" and declared that "Nimelri (Sudanese President) will meet his doom."

Observers estimated the crowd at 200,000 people.

Col. Mengistu was not accompanied at the rally by the

Dergue's second vice chairman, Lt.-Col. Atmamu Abate, although the number two man returned to Addis Ababa from a provincial visit today. The two men are reported to have had bitter differences.

Col. Mengistu told the crowd that those executed had delayed the arming of the people meant to protect the socialist revolution.

He also backed the extension of democratic rights to the masses and urged the formation of a workers' party.

The col. attacked President Jaafar Nimeiri of the Sudan for his recent open declaration of support for the secessionist

guerrillas in the Red Sea province of Eritrea.

He said that, except for South Yemen, Ethiopia had no friends in the region, and accused Saudi Arabian royalists and anti-Communist reactionaries in Sudan of supporting anti-government elements here.

Other speakers led chants of condemnation for the underground Marxist Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP) and the rightwing Ethiopian Democratic Union (EDU).

The city itself was calm today. But a 9 p.m. curfew introduced last night after the gunbattle at the Dergue's headquarters has not been lifted.

Karamanlis: Middle East settlement must include total Israeli withdrawal

ATHENS, Feb. 4 (R). — Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis said today a Middle East settlement must include Israel's evacuation of all Arab territories occupied after 1967, restoration of the rights of Palestinians and a guarantee of frontiers.

The prime minister, speaking at a dinner for ambassadors from Arab countries, said there were indications that the Middle East problem was entering a new phase.

"I hope that all those who play a role in the problem will show sincerity and courage in order to put an end to the drama of the Palestinians and to restore peace in that troubled area," he said.

Premier Karamanlis said that after World War Two, Arab countries had embarked on a great struggle.

"They were called on to protect the just interests of one of their brethren people, the Palestinians, who lost their

homes and became refugees in nearby Arab countries," the premier said.

"During that crucial period Greece stood by the side of its old friends... We have the privilege to claim that we have been the first to stand by your side," Mr. Karamanlis said.

Mr. Karamanlis said Greece was in favour of a speedy and just solution of the Middle East problem.

"We believe that in order to be just and viable, the solution should provide for the evacuation of all Arab territories occupied after 1967, the restoration of the rights of the Palestinians and the guarantee of the frontiers and the safeguard of the rights of all people in the area to live in peace and security," Mr. Karamanlis said.

Ambassadors attending the dinner came from Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, Libya and Iraq.

Waldheim is in Syria Geneva is not the only possibility he says before leaving Cairo

DAMASCUS, Feb. 4 (Agencies). — United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim stressed today that he set great store on a meeting he is due to have with Syrian President Hafez Assad when he arrived in Damascus from Cairo on the second leg of a Middle East peace-seeking tour.

Dr. Waldheim is to begin talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam this evening and is to confer with President Assad tomorrow.

There were signs however that Dr. Waldheim might be encountering difficulties early in his mission to revive the Geneva Middle East peace conference.

He gave what could have been a hint at the problems of his mission when he told reporters before leaving Cairo that the Geneva conference was not the only way to make progress towards peace in the Middle East.

"There are certainly other possibilities," he said.

Dr. Waldheim said the major stumbling block facing the Geneva talks was the question of the presence there of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headed by Mr. Yasser Arafat.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry official said today that his country would not be pushed to the conference, which has been stalled for three years, under the terms of a U.N. General Assembly call for the PLO to participate.

Dr. Waldheim told questioners in the Egyptian capital today that he hoped to progress towards a clarification of views that would speed resumption of Arab-Israeli negotiations. The problem holding up the talks was procedural, he said.

Asked about the possibility of PLO participation at Geneva under another name, the U.N. secretary general noted that resolution by the world organisation confirmed that the

PLO should take part and that the U.N. Security Council had invited the PLO to take part in its debates.

They were still seeking a solution to the question of PLO representation in Geneva, Dr. Waldheim told newsmen in Cairo.

He said his talks earlier today with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat were very frank. His discussions in Cairo had been important, he said.

Syria has been at pains to coordinate the attitudes of the four confrontation states. Apart from Mr. Khaddam's visit to Cairo, Lebanese President Elias Sarkis was here on Wednesday and King Hussein of Jordan is due on Sunday.

Mr. Waldheim flies to Saudi Arabia on Sunday, Lebanon on Monday and Jordan on Tuesday.

Dr. Waldheim is due in Israel after visiting its four Arab neighbours and Saudi Arabia.

Saudi F.M. arrives in Cairo with message from King Khaled

CAIRO, Feb. 4 (R). — Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal arrived here today for talks on the Middle East situation and to convey a message from King Khaled to President Anwar Sadat.

The Prince's visit to Egypt coincided with a Middle East tour by United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to discuss prospects for the resumption of the Geneva Middle East conference.

The U.N. chief's tour includes Saudi Arabia.

The prince was accompanied by Saudi Minister of Finance Sheikh Mohammed Aba Al Kheil.

Observers here believe Egyptian-Saudi financial relations, including Saudi assistance to Egypt, would possibly be discussed by Sheikh Aba Al Kheil and Egypt Deputy Premier for Economic Affairs Dr. Abdul Moneim Kaissouni.

Saudi Arabia has been a major financial backer of Egypt, scene of recent bloody food riots.

Senior Foreign Ministry official says Israel is not about to roll out red carpet for Dr. Waldheim; prefers Kissinger style talks

TEL AVIV, Feb. 4 (Agencies). — Israel believes that the United States, acting as an intermediary, has a better chance of solving the Middle East conflict than would the Geneva peace conference, a senior Foreign Ministry official said today.

Attempts to reconvene the conference on the basis of last December's United Nations General Assembly resolution criticising Israel will get nowhere, the official said.

He stressed that Israel's opposition to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was unshakable.

The official asked that he not be named or quoted directly.

Although not officially presented as such, his remarks to foreign correspondents were clearly intended to set out Israel's views on the eve of a visit by the U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

The chances of American mediation ending the state of war were brighter than those of Geneva because the United States was more flexible and pragmatic than conference procedure, he said.

This was why Israel would ask American Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, due to tour the Middle East shortly, to study the alternative to the Geneva conference — negotiations for a gradual solution, the official declared.

The official added that U.S. mediation had the advantage of doing without Soviet participation. Past agreements with Egypt and Syria on withdrawal of forces resulted in decreased Soviet influence in the region, which Israel preferred.

The next stage in the search for peace should be gradual, like the step-by-step procedure of former Secretary of

State Henry Kissinger, he said, adding that it was a mistake to believe that Middle East peace would come in one dramatic blow.

The official reiterated Israel's notion of negotiating with its neighbours to end the state of war between them.

"Israel is ready to negotiate total peace with its neighbours but we listen very carefully to what is said on the other side of the frontiers, even what is said by moderate leaders like President Sadat, and we realise that this aim cannot be reached," he went on.

Referring to the forthcoming arrival here of Dr. Waldheim, the official said Israel would welcome him with the customary respect.

But it seemed clear from his tone that Israel was unhappy with Dr. Waldheim's recent statements in favour of PLO participation in Geneva.

The General Assembly's demand that the PLO attend the Geneva talks "constitutes an act reflecting the tyranny of the majority," he said.

The United Nations had helped to prevent wars or sometimes bring them to an end but had never solved a problem of the scope of the Middle East conflict, the official said.

He reiterated Israel's opposition to the creation of a mini-Palestine state in the Gaza Strip and occupied West Bank but said Israel was not opposed to such an entity within a Jordanian framework.

He listed a number of reasons why Israel would not agree to the creation of a Palestinian state between itself and Jordan.

Firstly, he said, it would be no help in solving the refugee problem. It would create an "identity problem" for Jordan-

ians of Palestinian origin, and would be a continual source of friction.

In addition there would be no security infrastructure to prevent it being taken over by militants of the Rejection Front, it would be a political vacuum open to the influence of hard-line Arab countries and the Soviet Union, the ministry official charged.

In exchange for giving up the occupied West Bank, Israel would ask that the territory be demilitarised, which was unlikely to be met, according to the official.

Answering questions, he explained that the PLO charter calls for a "secular state" taking in all of the former British-mandated Palestine, which he interpreted as the destruction of the "Jewish state".

He said Israel did not object however to the participation in peace talks of mayors from the occupied West Bank within a Jordanian delegation. He made clear that Israel knew these mayors could be PLO sympathisers.

The senior official criticised European governments' recent attitudes towards the Middle East as unhelpful and irrelevant. He said the tragedy of Europe was that it longer had impact of control over situations.

On current problems with Syria, the official said Israel was still waiting to be told of the outcome of talks between the presidents of Syria and Lebanon. He called for the stationing of Lebanese troops in the border regions of south Lebanon to replace Syrian troops.

He declined to go into details on this issue, adding that he hoped Israel would know of Syrian intentions within days.

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Anarchy and fiction

In an Arabic-language news bulletin this week, the respected and usually respectable British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) casually referred to demonstrating Arab schoolchildren in Nablus as "anarchists". Assuming that BBC news bulletins are edited in London, and not in Tel Aviv, and assuming that the BBC news editors are aware of the fact that Nablus is under an Israeli military occupation, and assuming that the word "anarchists" was consciously chosen -- all reasonable assumptions -- then it seems to us that the BBC should take another look at the kinds of words it uses to report news from the Middle East, and should take an equally deep look at whether it is not acting as an unwitting propaganda agent for Israel. We don't think the BBC seeks to promote Israeli views, and we know, quite to the contrary, that the BBC news department takes great care to try and be as fair as it can reasonably and humanely be in reporting Middle East news. Thus we are doubly surprised when we hear the BBC refer to demonstrating Arab schoolchildren in occupied Palestinian towns as "anarchists".

The truth of the matter is that those "anarchist" schoolchildren simply do not have a fair chance to have their case honestly and consistently told by the international print and broadcast media, and the very act of their demonstrations (the BBC often calls them "riots") is testament to frustrations and anger generated by an Israeli occupation that is too often presented to the world, by the press, through Israeli eyes.

When we see Palestinian schoolchildren throw stones at Israeli cars or soldiers, we see this as an act of resistance, an act of political confrontation and, in its own meek way, an act of monumental defiance. The Israelis only see troublemakers. When the troublemakers are small children, they're called rioters and anarchists. When they are grown men and women, they are called terrorists. (When they travel to Paris, they become miraculously transformed into terrorist leaders and masterminds). This way of seeing the events and the people of occupied Arab lands is the way the Israelis see things, and for respectable press institutions to simply transmit twisted Israeli visions of make-believe worlds is very much a double failure. It is a professional failure, and a moral failure.

In the special case of the BBC, a government-financed semi-state institution, how far does one dare believe that the use of the word "anarchists" does or does not reflect official British thinking? How would the British people feel if we were to suggest that Mr. Churchill's stirring speeches about fighting the Germans on the roof tops and on the beaches were nothing more than the angry words of a troublemaker who would not submit to the realities and the inevitabilities of his world? Or if we were to suggest that the Free French forces under De Gaulle were nothing more than a bunch of terrorists indiscriminately killing Germans? Why is it that when this kind of stupid and irrational thought is applied to the cases of the British or the French it is recognised for being stupid and irrational, but when it is applied by the Israelis to the Arabs it is only picked up by the BBC and the other international media and transmitted to the rest of the world?

Is this, too, another example of how the Israelis have forced the normal discriminating thought processes of the world to stand on their heads and utter irrational phrases that are written in the deepest fear recesses of the Israeli mind? Or are there people in the West, and perhaps at the BBC, who will dare open a dictionary to see what the word "anarchist" means, and who would then dare open their minds to see whether anarchy rages in those processes that are supposed to determine honest and responsible international journalism?

Is there really anarchy in Nablus? Or is there anarchy in how the Western world perceives the realities of the Middle East?

We suggest that what we are really dealing with is fiction -- the fiction of "benign occupation" that Israel likes to cultivate, and the fiction of using the word "anarchists" to label anyone who refuses to accept the Israeli occupation. We expect the Israelis to do this, but we are surprised when the BBC plays along.

Is there nobody in the West who is aware of Israel's deceit, or immune to the imposition of this deceit upon such otherwise venerable institutions as the BBC?

Are there free men or women in the West who care to look into this matter? Are there free men or women who dare?

APOLOGY

The Jordan Times apologises for the absence today of Bassam Bishri's weekly column, Absurdity's Loophole, which usually appears on this page, and assures fans and readers that it will reappear as usual next Saturday.



The Christian Science Monitor

Technology sought for Arab arms industry

By John K. Cooley

The Christian Science Monitor
News Service

DOHA, QATAR -- Increased oil revenues from the latest rise in oil prices decided by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will help to fund a huge, integrated pan-Arab arms industry in Egypt, Syria, and possibly other Arab states by the 1980s, informed persons here report.

Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt are cooperating on planning and funding the first phase in Egypt. This will include setting up a plant in Egypt to manufacture spare parts for French Mirage jet fighter-bombers and probably computers and advanced signal and electronic-warfare equipment, the sources said.

As much as \$4 billion in Saudi, Qatari and United Arab Emirates funds may be available for the project by next year. Coordinating it is the Arab Military Industries Organisation (AMIO), made up of these three Arab oil states and Egypt. AMIO defence ministers met recently in Cairo to discuss technology transfer and other problems.

Egyptian expatriate workers and technicians in this and other oil states of the Gulf may be called in to help with AMIO planning, if they have not already done so.

When French Premier Raymond Barre visited Cairo last November, he confirmed that France and AMIO would jointly operate aircraft-part factories in Egypt.

The debate, now largely resolved according to Arab sources here, has been whether to give priority in allocating AMIO funds -- with an initial \$1 billion already made available by Saudi Arabia -- to buy more Western arms, or whether to give priority to developing high-technology manufacture in Egypt for Egypt and ultimately for other Arab states.

The debate reportedly has been resolved in favour of the second solution. Talks are under way with Western firms including Westland Aircraft of Britain, which has been holding long-drawn-out negotiations to build a military helicopter plant in Egypt; Avions Marcel Dassault-Breguet of France, which makes the Mirage; and Thomson-Houston of France, which manufactures missiles, electronic equipment and other advanced weapons systems.

The Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War Production Gen. Mohamed Abdul Ghani Al-Gamassi, reached preliminary agreement with the French government and French firms concerned on a visit to Paris last April. Thomson-Houston has agreed in principle to go ahead with a plant to manufacture Crotale anti-air-

craft missiles in Egypt, and some further details were apparently settled during Premier Barre's November trip to Cairo.

Technical representatives in Cairo of U.S. firms such as Rockwell International have discussed possibilities of similar U.S. technology transfers, but these are still blocked because of the opposition of the U.S. Defence Department and U.S. congressmen.

The only important U.S. military sales to Egypt so far were of six Lockheed C-130 transport planes last summer. An Egyptian military mission held some talks in Washington and may have window-shopped for U.S. arms systems early in December.

Steps toward modernising Egypt's existing but technology- and money-starved armaments industry are under way, with broad attention being given to computerisation. Skilled personnel for AMIO projects are expected to come in large part from Britain and France. AMIO is studying the problem of marketing the production of such items as Mirage fighters.

"We are carefully observing Israel's big arms-export programme," which includes aircraft, sophisticated communications gear, and small arms, "and we plan to use some of the Israeli methods," an Arab source close to the AMIO programme said.

William Scranton believes

U.N. has passed low point, and is on the way up

The United Nations has passed its lowest point and is on the way up, according to former U.S. Ambassador William W. Scranton, commenting in a reflective interview shortly before the end of his term. Governments and diplomats, he says, are beginning to realise constant confrontation gets them nowhere.

By David Anable

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK (CSM) -- Q. In Vermont not long back this reporter met a farmer who said the United Nations did not "add up to a hill o' beans." Is it worth a "hill o' beans"? A. I think there are two things which are very important. One is the work of the specialised agencies which most people, including farmers in Vermont, probably know very little about...

The other is that if you're going to do the three things that the UN was primarily set up to do -- peacemaking and peacekeeping, economic development, and human rights improvement -- it is extremely important to have a body where everyone is represented (I happen to believe in universality despite my vote on Vietnam) and where they have a chance to bring to such an organisation all their international problems.

That has been achieved. Practically every country in the world that has an international problem now brings it here.

However, you can't solve it here with 147 nations trying to work together. But you certainly can bring the problems here. Then, it seems to me, it's got to break down into areas and organisations that can work on them independently... and bring them back here for approval and so they can be implemented.

Q. Does the UN really reflect the views of the rest of the world, or is it used as a propaganda forum for putting across a political viewpoint?

A. Yes, it is used for that purpose, and we all know it is. But it's interesting that the Assembly can pass resolution after resolution, and under the UN's charter, they are not implemented. Maybe that's a good thing, because it gives an opportunity for getting a lot of venting-of-spleens over with, and people who are very upset about things can yell and scream and produce resolutions.

But it is also used as a pressure thing to have some action take place in perhaps a different forum, where something can actually get done. But you come back to the point that, having accomplished this, someone's got to implement it. And if the agreement is not going along the way it ought to, there's always this organisation to step in and help...

Q. Is the balance in favour of the organisation in terms of stepping in and helping or stepping in and hindering?

A. Now you're asking a different question. Americans get very upset about the UN because they are used to the period of time when it was pretty nearly run by the United States or certainly the developed Western world. That era has gone, and in my judgment it has gone permanently.

Then we went through a period of time, which we have not yet completely come out of, where colonialism was over with and all the emerging nations appeared. That has been an era of turmoil, of difficulty, of confrontation.



William Scranton, retiring U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations: The UN is "beginning to turn toward getting some things done."

I think, beginning this year, that to a degree people have begun to realise that constant confrontation gets you nowhere on either side. You don't produce any programmes that become effective. And some of us have realised that both sides, in some respects at least, need each other.

If you want to get into the economic end of it, for example, the Third World does not need the developed world for its capital, its know-how, its technology. The developed world needs the Third World for its resources, its emerging markets.

I think more and more countries, more and more leaders, are beginning to realise this and recognise that some kind of formulation, of mechanics, has got to occur that brings us together so we can iron out these problems and work together for our mutual benefit. I think that's the new UN you're going to see.

Q. But what does this mean to a farmer in Vermont, or to a housewife in Illinois, or a surfer in California?

A. One, that the chances of keeping peace in the world are greater. And that's extremely important to them even if they are not thinking about it every day.

Second, it means the beginning of the integration of the world's economic relationship. And this means a greater potential for better living conditions, not just for the people in the Third World, but for the people in the developed world too.

The result is that more American people... their work for their pay... for their development... are going to need the rest of the world.

Q. Does this mean the American people are going to be held hostage to a lot of noisy diplomats at the UN?

A. No, it doesn't. It's that they're going to listen a lot of noise, as they have... but I think that if of these major world problems begin to get solved (the East, Southern Africa, etc.) then some of the will begin to quiet down it already has.

Take this year alone, told by everyone it was confrontational. They've made a compilation of the U.S. was condemning the General Debate and it's minuscule compared to last year.

Q. Are you saying that far as that is concerned, UN has gone past the bottom and it's beginning to turn toward getting things done. It doesn't we can't sink back if we use our heads. But I think on the way up.

I think Andy Young a Vance and Jimmy Carter a great opportunity. A can take some real lead here now. I think the has begun to turn out that they can...

One thing that no government has yet dealt with internal composition is tremendous acceleration multilateral diplomacy. One statistic: 1975 meant to be the biggest in the history of the S Council. They met 69 in 1976 they met 113 in 1977. It just shows, it seems that more and more are bringing more and here. They're determining make the UN the show you will, as far as multilateralism is concerned.

Q. Do you think Young can have a influence as an individual?

A. Yes. As you know very high on this apollo All this press balance the problems of Adlai, son and Arthur Gold and I don't mean that crack at either of them, both splendid people...

relevance to today at ternally, politically, in Let me explain why. Those were the days. America was preemin here. Now we've been through the days when ca is a minority of almost sometimes one.

If Andy Young is about his political fut has made no mistake, cause it is now not a of winning on votes -- one knows we have t sing incessantly -- it is tion of how you hand self and what progre can make to bring ab dialogue, real unders and some effective rammes...

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

RADIO JORDAN

(On 856 KHZ)	14:10	Radio magazine
7:30 Morning melodies	14:30	Good vibrations
7:30 News	15:00	Concert hour
7:40 News reports	16:00	Old favourites
8:00 Sign off	16:30	Easy listening
10:00 Listeners choice	17:00	Jordan weekly
11:00 My kind of music	17:30	Pop session
11:30 Catch the words	18:00	News summary
11:45 Arab scientists	18:05	15 weekly
12:00 Pop session	18:15	Music
12:00 News summary	18:30	Varieties
13:05 Pop session	19:00	News
14:00 News	19:10	Music

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6 :	8:30 Arabic series
6:00 Quran	9:20 Reportage
6:05 Children's programme	Channel 6 :
6:30 English by television	7:30 News in Hebrew
7:00 Time to remember	7:45 Varieties
8:00 News in Arabic	8:30 Get some in
Channel 3 :	9:10 Saturday variety show
7:30 Family programme	10:00 News in English
	10:15 Movie of the week

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:	Granada (22668)
Amman:	Lubna (44944)
	Hikma (36577)

Abdul Salam Muhsairi (77733)
Suleiman Hiyassat (25015)

Irbid:
Ahmad Bishtawi (3925)
Sami Jabr

Zarqa:
Yliya Tariqi

Pharmacies:
Amman:
Jaafari (72679)

Irbid:

Zarqa:

Saadah

Taxis:

Neel (44333)

Tariq (23024)

Jerusalem (39655)

Ahram (63911)

AMMAN AIRPORT

Departures:	12:30	Rome, Paris	GMT
6:10 Damascus, Munich, Frankfurt (Lufthansa)	13:30	Jeddah (SDI)	03:00
8:00 Beirut	18:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai	06:30
8:00 Aqaba	20:30	Rawalpindi (BA)	
Arrivals:			
8:00 Tref, Bdana, Al Jawf, Jeddah (SDI)	7:55	Cairo (EA)	
8:40 Beirut (MEA)	8:20	Dubai (Alitalia)	
8:45 Cairo (EA)	8:25	Kuwait	
9:05 Rome (Alitalia)	8:25	Muscat, Doha	
10:30 Cairo	8:45	Karachi, Dubai	
10:45 Bucharest (Tarom)	8:50	Tehran	
11:00 Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam	9:50	Aqaba	
11:15 Damascus, Aleppo	10:30	Beirut	
11:30 Frankfurt, Copenhagen	11:35	Riyadh (SDI)	
12:00 London	16:30	Damascus, Aleppo	
	17:00	Cairo	
	19:40	Beirut (MEA)	
	19:50	London (BA)	

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Fire headquarters	" 22090
First aid, fire, police	" 19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	" 36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	" 37111-3
Police headquarters	" 39141
Najdah, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	" 21111, 37777

Cultural Centres

American Centre (USIS)	Tel. 41529
British Council	" 36147-8
French Cultural Centre	" 37009
Goethe Institute	" 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre	" 44203
Amman Municipal Library	" 36111

VOICE OF AMERICA

The Breakfast Show : 03:00, 04:00, 05:00, and 06:00 GMT : News, Re- gional and Topical Re- ports, VOA Current News Summary. 03:30, 04:30 and 05:30 GMT : An informal presenta- tion of popular music and feature reports and interviews, answers to listeners' questions, Sci- ence Digest.	18:30 19:00 19:30 20:00 20:15 21:00 to	Feature : The L Earth, News Sum- mary, Music USA (Stand- ard News Roundup, Re- gional Actualities, Opin- ions, analyses, News Sum- mary, VOA Magazine, A- merican Science, Cul- ture Letters, Special English, News Roundup, 20:00 Music (Jazz) to 20:15 VOA World Re- port News ... news and voices ... corrects dents reports ... ground features ... dia comments ... analyses.
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BBC RADIO

GMT		14:15	Letterbox
05:00	World News: 24 hours	14:30	My Kind of Music
05:30	Sarah Ward	15:00	Radio Newsreel
05:45	The World Today	15:15	Outlook
06:00	News: Press Review	16:00	News: Commentary
06:30	My Kind of Music	16:15	Science in Action
07:00	News: 24 hours	16:45	The World Today
07:30	Sarah Ward	17:00	News
07:45	Merchant Navy Programme	17:09	Music Now
		17:30	Book Choice
08:00	News: Reflections	17:45	Sports Round-up
08:15	Music for Wind Instruments	18:00	News
		18:15	Radio Newsreel
08:30	Jazz Club	18:30	What's New?
08:45	News: Press Review	19:00	Outlook: News Summary
09:15	The World Today		
09:30	Financial News	19:42	Stock Market
09:45	Sword of Honour	19:45	Strike up the Band
10:15	Merchant Navy	20:00	News: 24 hours
10:30	Folk and Country	20:30	The Thalidomide Story
11:00	News	21:00	World Radio Club
11:15	Face of England	21:15	Sarah Ward Request
11:30	Discovery	21:45	Scotland 77
12:00	Radio Newsreel	22:00	News: The World Today
12:15	Composer and Interpreter		
		22:25	Financial News
12:45	Sports Round-up	22:45	Sports Radio-up
13:00	News: 24 hours	23:00	World News: Commentary
13:30	New Ideas		
13:40	Ulster This Week	23:15	From the Weeklies
13:45	Don Moss Requests	23:30	Take it or Leave it

هكذا صحت القصة

Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf: Bringing a new style to a new ministry



By Irene Ramadan

At the same time both young and strict, affable and imposing, an art connoisseur and a competent state manager... these are the characteristics that portray the new Minister of Culture and Youth, Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, who talked with the Jordan Times a few days ago. While talking with him in his office, one could hear Albino in background music. On his desk is a beautiful Georgian pottery from the 14th century, and two interesting books: *The Art Management Handbook* and *The Age of the Democratic Revolution*.

Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, since two months, has been the first Minister of Culture in Jordan. Before this, he had been for a long time Director General of the Jordanian Youth and Sports Organisation.

Sharif Sharaf has chosen a new style of running his ministry. Instead of the usual way of structuring it, he has preferred, for instance, to keep all the departments of the ministry independent. In his talk with the Jordan Times, Sharif Sharaf revealed the highlights of his cultural and ministerial conceptions.

Jordan Times: Why a new Ministry of Culture now?

Sharif Sharaf: Jordan has developed in many fields and one who had visited Jordan ten years ago would now know how much change has taken place during the period. In the field of development, whether economic or social, the progress is enormous. Unfortunately, the cultural side was not

given enough attention. Progress in that field took only small steps, whether at the government level or by individual initiative. It has been realised that a concentrated effort through a Ministry of Culture would regenerate a new spirit in this very important field.

J.T: What has been realised already during the past two months?

S.S: Two months is a very short period, as you know. But I am very proud that much has been done in spite of this and of the administrative difficulties of a new organisation. And as you know, the first week after the establishment of the ministry, we had to host the first conference for the Arab ministers of culture, a conference of great importance to cultural development and progress in the Arab countries. Almost all the Arab ministers of culture attended this meeting. And we had representatives from all Arab countries as well as the representatives of UNESCO and Arab cultural and scientific organisations. The work of the conference came out with a very important document called "The Declaration of Amman", which stipulated a unified and clear approach to all aspects of cultural achievements.

Great efforts were made by the newly born ministry to make this conference a success. And it did succeed. The impressions given to me by almost all the participants were favourable. The organisation was done smoothly and efficiently. Immediately after the conference, I spent all my time reviewing, studying and meeting with different representa-

tives of different cultural sections in the country to come to grips with all the problems facing our cultural development at this time. As an example, I had to make a speedy study on the progress and functions of the Royal Theatre. We made a detailed programme on the cultural events relating to the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of H.M. King Hussein's accession to the throne.

Besides, we have established for the first time a union for Jordanian painters, an initiative that has not been taken for ten years. The union has already elected its directors, and we have already started working the first Jordanian painting exhibition that would take place in June. I have also thought many times about how to include children in cultural activities. We are now preparing a special section which will supervise and coordinate all activities relating to children.

A National Library and a national library system are of prime importance, which is why I asked the department of National Archives, which belongs to our ministry, to be in charge of all the libraries' work in the country. They have established a unit to identify and realise the objectives of such a new assignment.

I have also formed a committee for the first exhibition of Jordanian books and books written about Jordan. This exhibition will be held for the first time in Jordan, sometime in June this summer. It will include thousands and thousands of books in Arabic and other languages, written in the 19th and 20th centuries. It will also present some of the very rare books and documents of the modern history of the Arabs. I am happy to say that all these programmes are proceeding very fast and that there are many others that will be announced in due time. I must tell you we are very busy people in our new ministry.

J.T: What will be the general policy of the new Ministry of Culture?

S.S: The main objective for any person interested in the cultural progress of his or her country is to see it enjoying and contributing to the culture of the Arab countries and the culture of the world. We know we are a small country, but Jordan has got a very clear advantage. It is a liberal and generous society with an interesting outlook. We have had many cultural exchanges with different cultures and different countries in Asia, East and West Europe and America. We have a unique situation. Our people welcome and like to get

involved in cultural events taking place in the world. We have very high percentage of university students and university graduates.

I must add that we have to develop our theatre to encourage our writers, poets, painters, sculptors. We have to establish a fine arts school, a school of music and others such institutions. The exchange programmes will not be neglected, either.

We have rising expectations in every field, and we shall realise them. This generalisation, you will see, shall be interpreted in detailed policy.



Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian dinars for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency: BBN

U.K. sterling	573.0	579.0
U.S. dollar	333.0	335.0
German mark	138.1	138.5
French franc	67.2	67.5
Swiss franc	132.8	133.2
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.9	38.1
Saudi riyal	94.5	94.8
Lebanese pound	110.0	112.0
Syrian pound	82.0	82.4
Iraqi dinar	940.0	948.0
Kuwaiti dinar	115.0	115.5
Egyptian pound	475.0	490.0
Libyan dinar	770.0	790.0
UAE dirham	85.0	85.7

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French tourists pose for the camera after disembarking at Aqaba Wednesday. (JNA photo).

Jordan receives 1st group of tourists via Aqaba Port

Feb. 3 (Agencies). — Aqaba Port will receive its first group of tourists starting in April, officials said here today. A new marine line, Aqaba and the ports and Jeddah would give a major role in tourism in Jordan.

It is near to some of the important tourist sites in Nabatean city of Wadi Rum, a picturesque desert made by Britain's T.E. Lawrence of Arabia.

A passenger station equipped with waiting and customs halls is being constructed in the port, the sources added. The first passenger ship ever to have docked at the Aqaba Port arrived there last week from France with 400 tourists on board. They passed their 12-hour visit to Aqaba, by visiting the Wadi Rum, and Petra in southern Jordan.

In an interview with Jordan News Agency, the tour supervisor said that the trip was a test to see the feasibility of

such journeys from France to ports on the Red Sea.

"We were impressed by the quick handling of customs, passport, and security formalities, the efficiency of which are comparable to others on the Red Sea ports accustomed to receiving passenger ships," the group supervisor said.

After the success of this trip, she added, Aqaba will be put on the list of Red Sea ports to be visited regularly by tourists.

Four such trips are scheduled for this year she added. A representative of the French tourism office responsible for the trip said that maritime companies in Greece and England will schedule similar trips to Aqaba in the near future.

Three trips are expected for this year he said. He emphasized the need for the existence of a group representing Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airlines, the Ministry of Tourism, the travel and tourism bureaus, and owners of hotels should be formed. This group will be entrusted to coordinate with Alia offices abroad to study the tourist market in the countries they operate in, in addition to organising trips to Jordan, holding meetings with European travel and tourism bureaus.

The cost of these operations will be settled jointly by all to counter the competition of the Israeli port of Eilat in that field he concluded.

In a second interview with the Aqaba Port Director General, Mr. Ahmad Fawzi Abu Nuwar, he said that the port presently has limited capabilities and is not fully equipped to receive regular passenger ships. However, we were obliged to have the French ship dock at the port to encourage tourism to Jordan.

The new floating berth, will be ready in April and this will enable the port to receive passenger ships without any delay in offloading cargo.



French tourists enjoy the picturesque view of Wadi Rum, about 50 kms to the northeast. (JNA photo).

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JIMMY CARTER FACE TO FACE WITH GLOBAL REALITY - V

Abundance & starvation: Extremes to test U.S. compassion

By Takashi Oka

ROME, (CSM). — Remember Bangladesh?

How long is it since all those pictures of starving infants stared out accusingly from newspaper front pages? How long since those equally accusatory reminders that while people in the rich nations were gobbling up more and more meat, many citizens of poor countries were fortunate if they got two meals a day?



A little Nigerian boy, bowl in hand, is symbolic of the world's hungry, most of whom live in poor, slowly developing nations.

The nasty shock of 1972-74 — when world grain production fell by 33 million tonnes, the Soviet Union cornered U.S. grain exports, and wheat prices quadrupled — is fading from memory. The United States, the Soviet Union, even the Indian subcontinent, have had bumper harvests. World food stocks are beginning to build up again. The anchovies have returned to the coasts of Peru, increasing supplies of fertilizer and feed.

And yet the fundamental problem of too many mouths chafing after too little food remains.

Half a billion of the world's 4 billion inhabitants suffer from malnutrition, estimates Jean Mayer, former Harvard professor and now President of Tufts University. Another billion could do with a more varied diet.

Population growth has slowed, but the developing nations are going to have to increase food production at least 4 percent a year if their food import bills are not to reach prohibitive levels by 1985.

Two years ago, in Rome, the nations of the world assembled in the World Food Conference solemnly pledged to abolish hunger and malnutrition in a decade.

It was a noble promise, but implementation has lagged sadly behind. The United States, the world's largest exporter of grain, has been entangled in sterile argument over how much control should be exercised in the international grain market.

Other nations also have dragged their feet. For the promise to be realized, a large allocation of resources and a restructuring of the world grain market will be required.

The fundamental problem is that the developing nations of the world — in Africa, Latin America and Asia — have not managed to increase food production to a point where it can keep up with the growth in their populations and with the increase in their demand for food.

From this failure arises the need:

1. For capital investment by the developing nations themselves to increase food production at least 4 per cent a year (4.3 per cent, says the World Food Council established by the 1974 Rome Conference).

2. For the world grain trade to be structured in such a way that poor countries will not be victimized by sudden rises in grain prices, as occurred in 1974 when both oil and wheat prices quadrupled. This means setting up an international grain reserve that would keep price fluctuations within tolerable limits, say between \$2 and \$3 per bushel of wheat.

The first point, which holds out the only practical possibility that the world will overcome its food crisis, has become the focus of much controversy.

Many experts believe it is simply unattainable. The developing countries are not serious about population control. They are not interested in improving agriculture, but waste their money on prestige industrial projects. Their use of foreign aid is wasteful and corrupt, these experts say.

Therefore, the argument goes, it would be better to separate developing countries into those that are capable of helping themselves and those that are not. The first category will be helped. The others will be abandoned, just as those inside a lifeboat would try to keep too many others from clambering aboard lest the boat be swamped.

There are others who maintain that the present gap between the food needs of the de-

veloping nations and the enormous amounts consumed as livestock feed in the developed nations (400 million tonnes a year, more than human beings in China and India together consume) is the result of centuries of exploitation by the rich nations and that food, along with wealth, must be redistributed from the rich nations to the poor.

Finally, there is a third school — of natural scientists, aid administrators and development experts — who point out that technically there is no reason mankind, including the developing nations, should not be able to feed itself. Population growth is restrainable. Ex-

couraging progress has already been made.

In an issue of Scientific American last autumn, devoted to food and agriculture, W. David Hopper estimated that the southern Sudan alone, if drained of its swamps, could produce as much food as the entire world does today.

Similarly, the northern part of the Indian subcontinent, drained by three mighty rivers, the Indus, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra, could be made vastly more productive than it now is — perhaps yielding up to 20 metric tonnes of grain per hectare, or about 80 per cent of the world's present grain output.



Equipment operator watches grain empty from gleaner into a truck in a Colorado wheat field.

These are spectacular projects. Much more modest efforts, carried out on a global scale, could make hunger a thing of the past. As hunger is wiped out, population also can decline, even if living standards remain modest, as the experience of China has shown.

Effort on the part of the developing nations is certainly required. So is a reordering of priorities to give agriculture the first call on national resources. Equally required is capital. Many of the world's developing nations are small. In nearly 80 of them, the population is less than 5 million.

They may have the will but lack the capital to carry out the projects that would transform agriculture in their countries. For them, capital assistance from the rich countries is vital.

This is the purpose of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) — a billion-dollar fund, again promised by the World Food Conference, which is only coming into being this year because of the time required to obtain the needed money.

The development fund is unique because it will be controlled, in equal proportions, by the rich industrialized nations, by the newly rich oil-producers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and by the non-oil-producing developing nations. Voting strength, in other words, will not be in proportion to the amount of money put into the kitty.

But the fund alone is only a drop in the bucket. At least \$5 billion a year would need to be transferred every year from the rich countries to the poor if the goal of an annual 4 per cent increase in food production were to be realized, according to officials of the World Food Council.

The second major task the world community faces to wipe out hunger in the next decade is to restructure the international grain market. This is not as formidable a task as the first one, but it has run into a great deal of controversy between American officials, who wish to keep the grain trade essentially uncontrolled, and Third World advocates, who see the need for at least some limits of price to be observed in the international marketplace.

The American argument, essentially, is that for 20 years after World War II, the United States and Canada held the world's only sizeable reserve grain stock. Emergencies such as the periodic failures of the monsoon in India or of harvests in the Soviet steppes were

met by drawing on this reserve stock.

But the storage was costly. The existence of the reserve acted to depress grain prices and thus kept farmers' incomes low. Periodic efforts were made to clear the stock by sales of grain at concessional prices to developing nations.

Now that world grain prices finally are higher, so the argument goes, why should the United States bear the exclusive burden of keeping a grain reserve? Why should not other countries share the cost, if that is what they want to do?

The counterargument put forward by international development officials is that there never has been such a thing as

the world be protected in any way from exorbitant upward swings of the international market.

In the final analysis, both agricultural aid to developing countries and on aging the international grain trade, the United States plays a pivotal role. The American role is no longer dominant, it was during the 1960s. But it remains essential and it has to be played with increasing subtlety and sophistication.

Rich nations, poor nations with oil and without, nations with food spare and nations where hunger is endemic all share responsibility for a world community in which the danger



a completely free market in grain. Domestically, food is too important a commodity to be left exclusively to the vagaries of the market, and many governments take measures from time to time to subsidize grain production when prices are unreasonably low, even if from the viewpoint of the market it would be cheaper to buy grain from abroad.

Conversely, governments take action to protect consumers, or groups of consumers, when price rises impose a heavy burden on them.

Should not these principles be applied internationally? By all means, protect farmers from grain prices that are too low to provide a reasonable margin of profit. At the same time, if the world is to become a genuine community, and not just to remain a market, should not the poorer nations of

actions of a determined could lead to the collapse of the entire edifice.

No issue is more arousing than food, because issue is as basic to individual and national survival. If same token, no issue does the world community act as a genuine community does this one.

"If the human race agree on food, on what they agree?" asks a economist, Dame Barbara rd, in a recent book (for to "Hunger, Politics, and Kets").

"If those self-proclaimed ristian countries of the who pray 'Give us this our daily bread' are no pared to give it to anyone, they deserve the me and collapse that follow too wide a breach between niple and practice."

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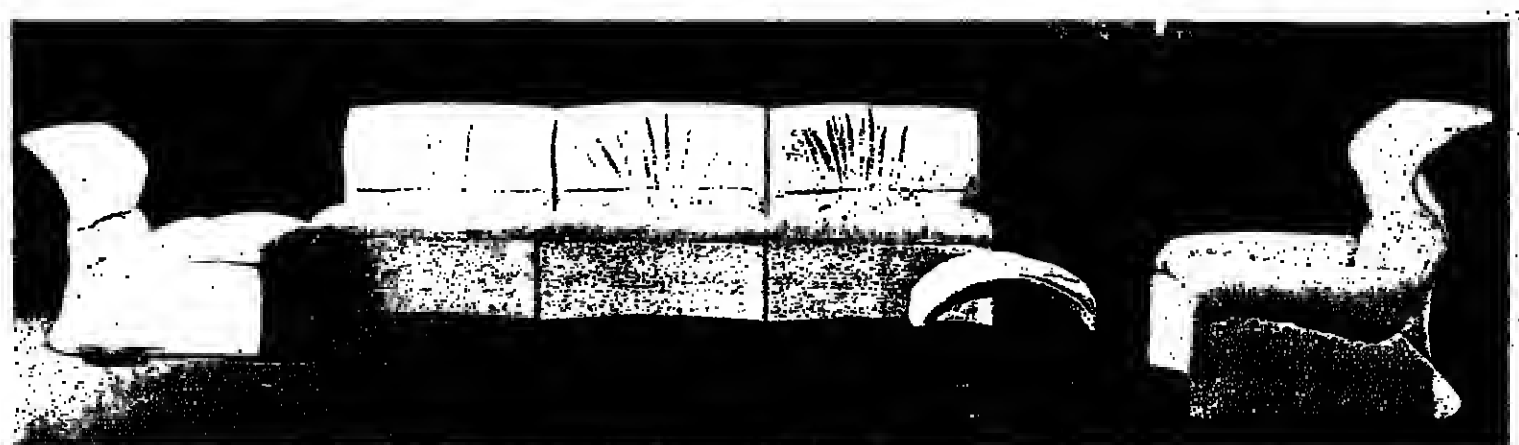
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هكذا احسن القليل

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1977 by Chicago Tribune
ASK OMAR

In a recent game, the following sequence occurred:

South West North
Dble. Pass 1♦
2♦ Pass 4♦
Pass Pass Pass

spades was no great ss. South held 13 points for-card support. North expected a much bet- and from South. How a single raise of part- suit show a good hand? B. Rogers, Washing- D. C.

Q.—How would you play three diamonds on this hand?

♠ A 5 4
♥ 6 5 2
♦ K 5
♣ J 7 5 2
♠ J 9 7 6 ♠ Q 10 8
♥ Q 10 8 3 ♥ K J 9
♦ 10 ♦ J 8 6 3
♣ A 10 6 3 ♣ K 9 8
♠ K 3 2
♥ A 7 4
♦ A 9 7 4 2
♣ 4

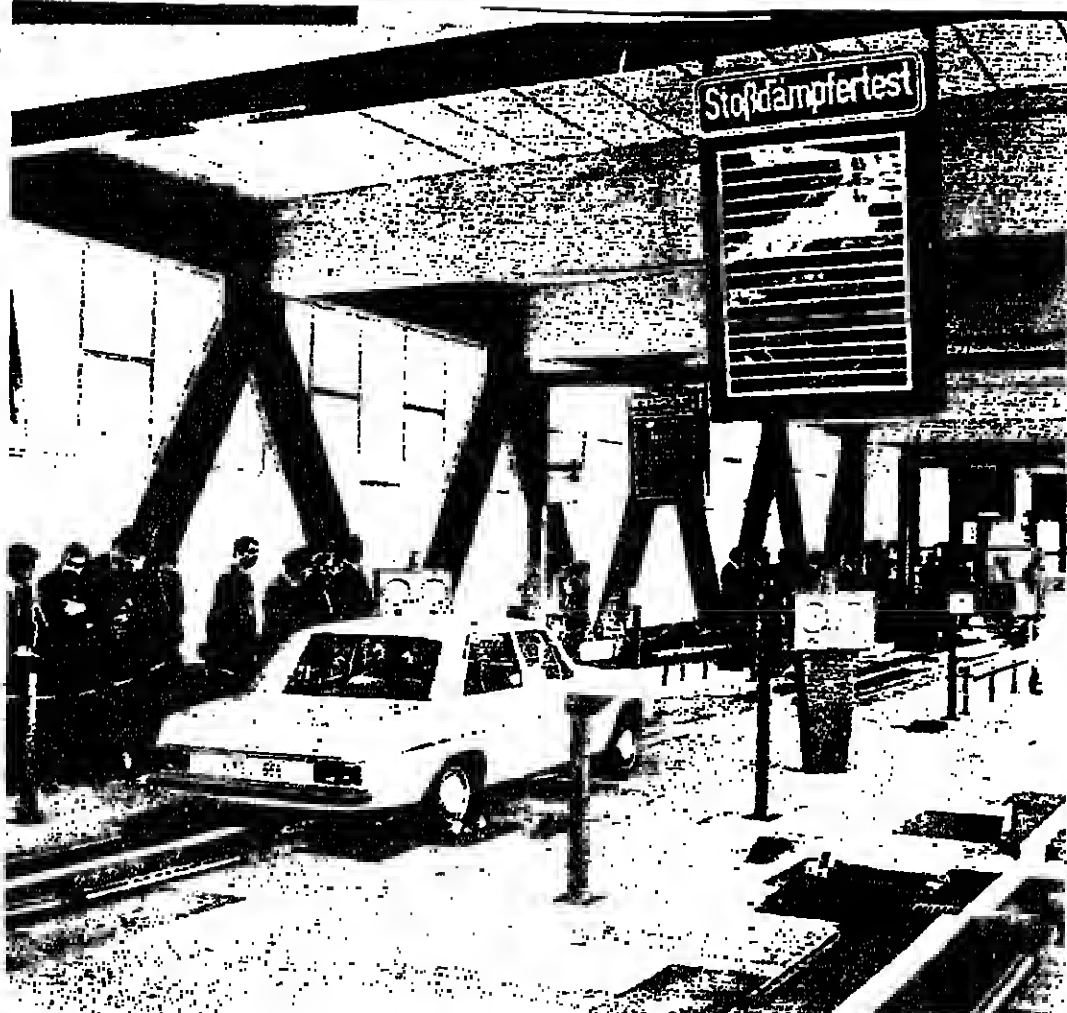
West led the three of hearts. —R. Jones, San Diego, Calif.

A.—Obviously, if trumps break 3-2, you have nine tricks on top. Therefore, you must cooera yourself with a possible 4-1 trump break, for there is little chance that you can set up a club trick and get to dummy to cash it.

If West started with four trumps, there is nothing you can do about it. However, if East dealt four trumps, you should be able to develop a trump coup if West's singleton is either the nine or ten.

You have now reduced your trumps to the same length as East, and you hold Q-9 over his J-8. You simply exit with your spade, and no matter who wins the trick, you must score both of your trumps at the end to make your contract.

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



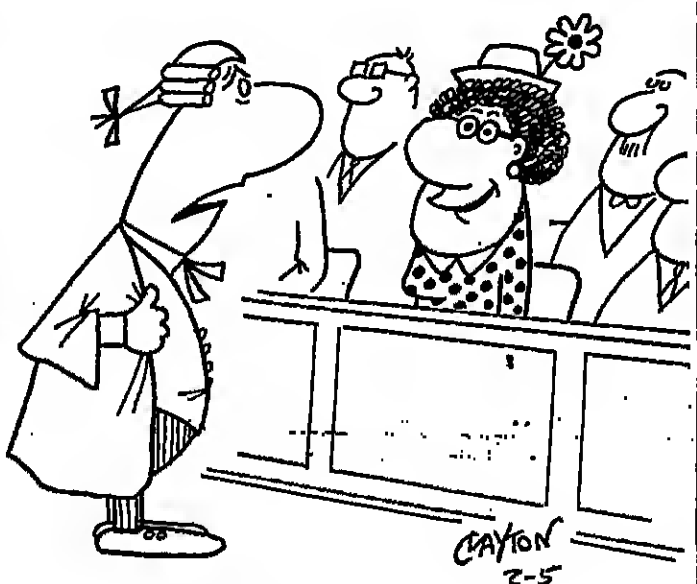
AUTO-CHECK -- Everything in this, the most modern motor testbed in the world, is fully automated. Cameras scan the headlights to ensure that they are working correctly, photo-electric cells ensure that the wheels are properly balanced, illuminated screens tell the driver that he should put the car into neutral, brake or carry on driving.

The new testbed was recently put into operation in West Germany, in a suburb of Cologne. To the technical expert this is perfection. Machines do practically everything.



GRAFFITI
SOME PEOPLE GET BEHIND A WHEEL WITH NOTHING BUT POETIC LICENSE

LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



ENGLAND Clayton
"How would YOU like it if three big, burly policemen came chasing after YOU?"

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, FEB. 5, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day to maintain a conventional and conservative attitude and to your surprise will be able to achieve a great deal. Sidestep anything of a deceptive nature.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Don't go off on some tangent and forget to handle important money matters or you will regret it later. Make future plans.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Put aside the dull and gain the upsurge of spirit that you need at this time. Seek the company of good friends.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Seize an opportunity early in the day in which you can advance in your career. Do some entertaining at home tonight.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Take time to catch up on correspondence you've been neglecting lately. Use extreme care in motion today.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Confer with business associates and make long-range plans for the future. Use tact in dealing with others.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't involve kin in whatever you have in mind today and it will be successful. Show that you are a cheerful and happy person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Face any problems you have squarely instead of putting them off for another day. Avoid tendency to spend too much money.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Show that you appreciate friends who have been loyal to you and gain their esteem. Not a good day to run errands.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Express your ideas to experts in your line of endeavor early in the day. Avoid one who does not appreciate you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Engage in outside activity and make considerable progress. A favor extended a new contact can bring fine results.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You have many responsibilities which should be handled without delay. Show true devotion to loved one.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be alert to opportunities in career matters that come up today. Take time to engage in favorite hobby with congenials.

UMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

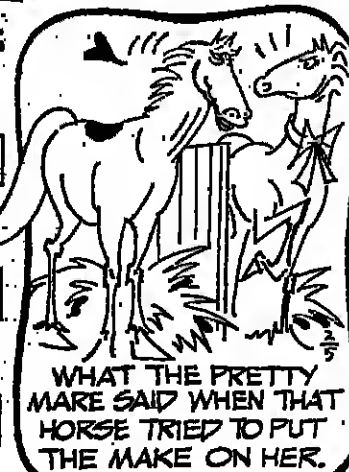
Scramble these four Jumbles, letter to each square, to form ordinary words.

JILER

YKAH

IGRIF

MPIGE



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

nt surprise answer here: **EVIDENCE**

Answers tomorrow
Jumble: FEVER TWICE HIDING BUNKER
Answer: Lawyers have been known to win cases when they gave the jurors this—EVIDENCE

THE BETTER HALF

By Barnes



you feel ridiculous? A big 192-pound man KO'd by a tiny half-ounce price tag?"

TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURES

MOVIE OF THE WEEK :

OTLEY

Cast: TOM COURTENAY, ROMY SCHNEIDER
Born loser Gerald Otley unwillingly becomes a spy. He blunders from one near-crisis to another, unable to distinguish his allies from his enemies.

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PEANUTS



THE FLINTSTONES



MUTT AND JEFF



APOLOGY

The Jordan Times apologises for the non-appearance of the daily crossword. Our stocks have literally run dry, and in the meantime we're awaiting our next batch from our suppliers in the U.S. We shall resume publication as soon as humanly possible.

On Rhodesian settlement Smith seeks U.S. support

SALISBURY, Feb. 4 (R). — Prime Minister Ian Smith today called on the United States government to help ensure that a political settlement in Rhodesia did not lead to control by "the tools of Russian imperialism."

Speaking at a press conference here, the leader of Rhodesia's white minority government also reaffirmed his intention of reaching an "internal" settlement with black leaders following the collapse of latest U.S. and British settlement attempts.

He said his government and advisers were considering ways of testing black opinion to find which of Rhodesia's rival black leaders commanded most support.

"We believe that it is necessary to establish the true leaders of Rhodesia, democratically chosen by the majority of the people," Mr. Smith said.

He refused to give details of his plan, or say what role he saw for the relatively moderate black nationalist Bishop Abel Muzorewa. The bishop claims he has majority support among Rhodesia's six million blacks.

But the Methodist bishop says he will not make a direct deal with Mr. Smith even though black African states are

hacking his rivals of the Patriotic Front -- Mr. Joshua Nkomo and Mr. Robert Mugabe.

Mr. Smith said British and American government approval would be needed for Rhodesia to achieve legal independence. But he believed an international settlement would enhance Rhodesia's position externally, "except among the communists."

In reply to a recent remark by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance that the United States would not help the Rhodesian government to delay black rule, Mr. Smith said:

"We seek no American aid in delaying the advent of majority rule because it is not our intention to delay it."

"What we do ask -- and I believe that we are entitled to it -- is that the United States government should use its influence to help us ensure that the settlement we seek will not put into power terrorists who, without any shadow of doubt, are the tools of Russian imperialism and who say quite openly that they intend to take Rhodesia through the barrel of the gun."

Mr. Smith blamed the British government for the breakdown of the Geneva talks on

transition to black rule. He said Britain had become "completely beholden to the Patriotic Front, that unholy alliance of terrorists, and to the black presidents who give them their orders."

Britain, he said, was being "led by the nose."

Mr. Smith repeatedly avoided direct answers to questions about Bishop Muzorewa's possible participation in direct talks, and observers believe that this is the key problem Mr. Smith faces in attempting to achieve an internal settlement.

It appeared that Mr. Smith plans first to stage a test of black opinion before making any positive approach to the bishop on negotiations.

Geneva Conference Chairman Ivor Richard and the British government were "doing everything they can to dissuade black Rhodesians from holding internal discussions with our government," Mr. Smith said.

He said the removal of racial discrimination was being studied but it was a difficult and complicated exercise; he gave no details on what moves the government plans to take in removing discrimination, but confirmed that it formed part of the overall settlement scheme.

France, W. Germany reach broad accord on nuclear arms, economic summit

PARIS, Feb. 4 (R). — President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt today agreed on the need to stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

But the two leaders did little to ease a dispute with Washington over the export of sensitive nuclear technology.

Ending two days of talks here, they also reached broad agreement on their approach to a proposed Western economic summit which the West German side suggested could take place in London May 10.

Dealing with the nuclear controversy, their joint statement made clear that France and West Germany would continue to provide developing nations with nuclear technology for peaceful economic purposes.

While promising to pursue talks on nuclear policy, they gave no hint of any change in decisions to provide Pakistan and Brazil with nuclear fuel reprocessing plants -- the highly complex plants from which atom bombs can be developed.

American anxiety over these two big contracts has put France and West Germany at odds with President Carter's new administration. But spokesmen for the two European leaders indicated they had not sought to establish any common front against Washington.

The spokesmen noted that both countries were ready to consult Washington, France, on the other hand, would refuse to discuss specific commercial contracts, including its Pakistan deal, in any such move, the French spokesman said.

Both sides stressed that M. Giscard d'Estaing and Herr Schmidt had refrained from mentioning the disputed contracts in some four hours of private talks over the past two days.

While the nuclear tangle remained unresolved, the statesmen succeeded in agreeing not only on the Western economic summit but also on the need for tighter coordination of the French and German economies, and of the Common Market economies as a whole.

Israeli ambassador returns to Paris

PARIS, Feb. 4 (AFP). — Israeli Ambassador to France Mordechai Gazit, recalled to Israel last month after a French court released Palestinian leader Abu Dawud, returned here this morning.

He was met at the airport by several French political figures as well as members of his embassy and representatives of the local Jewish community.

In a brief statement, Mr. Gazit said he had been instructed by his government to make diplomatic representations to France over handling of the release of Abu Dawud.

"I have returned to Paris to resume my duties having ended the consultations for which I was recalled by my government."

"These consultations ... dealt with both current affairs and new problems that have emerged between our two countries."

He was instructed by my government to bring to the attention of the French government our points of view and our position," Mr. Gazit said.

Thanking the "eminent personalities" who greeted him at the airport, the ambassador said their presence provided ample proof that many French wanted improved relations with Israel.

Answering newsmen's questions, Mr. Gazit said that the status of planned visits to Israel by some French government ministers was currently under review.

"The malaise created in the wake of the liberation of Abu Dawud was very serious in the eyes of the Israeli public," he added.

Key OAU body backs Patriotic Front leaders

LUSAKA, Feb. 4 (R). — The Liberation Committee of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) decided today that the Patriotic Front of Mr. Joshua Nkomo and Mr. Robert Mugabe should be the umbrella organisation for all Rhodesia's nationalist guerrillas.

After an all-night sitting and a heated dispute over who controls the nationalist movement, the influential OAU committee adopted a resolution that it would in future channel all aid to the nationalists through the front.

But the compromise resolution fell short of total recognition of the front and shelved a decision on the status of the two other nationalist leaders excluded from the front, Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, sources added.

The decision follows last month's announcement by black Africa's "front-line" states -- Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Botswana and Angola -- of full support for the four-month-old alliance.

But during the six-day OAU session here which ended this morning, Bishop Muzorewa and Mr. Sithole asserted that they too had guerrilla support, and bitterly attacked the front line group.

Capetown students demonstrate

CAPE TOWN, Feb. 4 (AFP). — Schools in Cape Town's three African townships of Nyanga, Guguletu and Langa were closed today following demonstrations by thousands of young Africans, informed sources said here.

Several schools in Guguletu were attacked simultaneously by groups of Africans who have been boycotting classes since Monday. They disrupted classes which were going ahead with only a handful of pupils.

Students have said the boycott will go on until police

In-fighting over Paris elections threatens to split the French left

PARIS, Feb. 4 (AFP). — The three-party "union of the left" in France is threatened with a split because of in-fighting over the forthcoming elections for a Paris mayor and City Council.

The Socialist candidate for mayor, Georges Sarre, yesterday called for a meeting of the Socialist, Communist and leftist radical parties, to reach agreement on composition of electoral lists in the city's 18 voting districts.

Leftist leaders have said they stood a good chance of victory in the balloting on

Col. Mengistu asserts his authority as Ethiopia's real power

ADDIS ABABA, Feb. 4 (R). — A violent upheaval in Ethiopia's ruling Military Council has removed the third head of state within three years and reasserted the authority of the country's most powerful man.

Li. Col. Mengistu Haile-Marjam, a tough, astute officer in his mid-thirties, is now clearly supreme in actual power, and officially supreme as Vice Chairman of the ruling council, "the Dergue."

The figurehead Chairman, Brig-Gen. Tefari Bante, was ousted of seven members of the radical military leadership killed yesterday. Two young captains, recently seen as hedging in Col. Mengistu's powers, died with him.

Ethiopia's present "Socialist Revolution" began with the overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie in September 1974.

The Dergue's first Chairman, Gen. Aman Andom, was executed two months later with 59 other leading Ethiopians.

Gen. Aman saw himself as the new leader of the country. Not so Gen. Tefari, the dapper career officer who had little real power and was never a member of the Dergue itself. At 55, he was approaching official retirement.

Coming from the Oromo ethnic group, he had his name changed from Bante to Bante to please the numerically smaller but traditionally dominant Amharas.

Gen. Tefari, a former military attaché in Washington and briefly commander of the Second Army Division, was known to many heads of state as Ethiopia's representative at meetings such as the Organisation of African Unity summit.

A courtesy call to his national palace office, where he usually wore a dark suit rather than army uniform, was part of most official visits.

The effective leader of the country was Col. Mengistu.

The colonel has a reputation for unswerving toughness. He was involved in the sudden decision to execute Gen. Aman.

At the time of the revolution, according to one report, soldiers in the eastern town of Harar kidnapped his wife and children and demanded he come to talk to them. It said he ignored the threat and the soldiers backed down.

Col. Mengistu comes from a small ethnic group in western Ethiopia, and was raised as an orphan by a family connected with the former imperial regime.

At the leaders who died, by Captains Mogus Wolde-Medseal and Alemayehu Haile, were credited with changes in the Dergue which were interpreted as limiting Col. Mengistu's power.

Their deaths were regarded as particularly significant. All the dead except Gen. Tefari were Amharas, while suggested an ethnic conflict within the Dergue. Some of the leaders believe that the ethnic line-up is as significant as policy arguments or individual power plays.

Israel, Soviet envoys meet

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 4 (R). — The U.N. representatives of Israel and the Soviet Union, which have no diplomatic relations, held a rare meeting last night to discuss Middle East problems.

A Soviet spokesman said took place at the Soviet U.N. mission and that it was at the initiative of the Israeli envoy Ambassador Chaim Herzog.

The meeting was the first formal exchange between Mr. Herzog and the newly-arrived Soviet representative, Ambassador Oleg Troyanovsky, who took up his U.N. post only month ago.

Other sources said the discussion lasted about an hour and followed an informal conversation between the two men when they both attended dinner last month given by the U.N. Association of the United States.

CYPRIOUS TRACK DOWN KILLERS OF U.S. ENVOY

NICOSIA, Feb. 4 (AFP). — Warrants for the arrest of eight persons have been issued here in connection with the slaying of the United States Ambassador to Cyprus, Roger Davies, well-informed source said today.

The eight being sought by police were Greek-Cypriots and could be linked to the clan estate EOKA-B movement which opposes Archbishop Makarios the Greek-Cypriot leader, it sources said.

Identities of the eight were not disclosed, but the source said two of them were no active duty as police officers. The arrest warrants were issued after consultations between police and the prosecutor general of the republic they added.

Mr. Davies and a Greek Cypriot woman secretary were shot dead here on Aug. 1, 1974 during a riot at the U.N. embassy to put pressure on Turkey to halt its advance on the island.

According to evidence assembled to date, the two were killed by bullets fired from an unfinished building near the Greek sector of Nicosia. Investigation of the slaying had marked time for the last two years. But recent reports said a film, made by American forces within the embassy confines during the riot, had recently been turned over to the police, shedding new light on the events.

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ECONOMIC & BUSINESS NEWS

Central bankers to discuss \$3b. safety net for Britain

BASLE, Feb. 4 (AFP). — Detailed terms for a \$3,000 million standby credit to be granted Britain as a "safety net" for sterling balances will be discussed by governors of leading central banks here on

Coffee picture remains gloomy

ROME, Feb. 4 (R). — People seem to be drinking as much coffee as ever despite consumer complaints over its price and threats of boycotts, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said.

FAO forecast coffee production for 1976/1977 would fall to between 3.6 and 3.7 million tonnes -- the lowest for 12 years, and 600,000 tonnes less than world demand.

The shortage was largely caused by the crop failure in Brazil, the world's largest coffee producer. In 1975, and coffee production in general would not improve for several years, FAO said.

The Italian consumer organisation Conconsumatori yesterday followed the example set by similar United States groups and appealed to Italians to cut down on their average three cups of coffee a day.

But despite these pressures from consumer groups and rocketing prices, "to date there is no clear indication that they (consumers) are drinking less coffee," FAO said.

The present high price of coffee would lead some producing countries to raise output, but this would not affect prices for several years until the new plantations came into production, FAO added.

Monday and Tuesday, international financial sources said today.

The central bankers at their previous monthly meeting here on Jan. 10 agreed on the outline of an arrangement to guarantee official sterling balances, involving the credit line to be granted through the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and a British commitment to phase out such balances by offering the holders medium term bonds in foreign currency.

The sources said details of the bond issues would also be examined next week's meeting. These bonds were likely to be issued almost exclusively in dollars.

As for the terms, the sources added they might have to be re-examined at a later stage, notably with oil-producing countries which are among the main holders of sterling balances.

Britain was expected to approach these countries soon on this matter, according to the same sources.

On the whole, the feeling was that no major problems were likely to arise over these "technicalities". BIS officials described the bank governors' meeting as "routine".

However, observers here noted that they would have to take into account the reversal of trends in the City of London caused largely by the announcement of the Basle agreement and various loans granted Britain to bolster sterling.

Following these rescue operations, the Bank of England is now faced by a massive inflow of money and has had to intervene on the foreign exchange to avoid an excessive firming up of sterling.

Kuwaiti oil production registers drop of 1/3

KUWAIT, Feb. 4 (R). — Kuwait's oil production fell last month by one third to 1.2 million barrels a day because buyers sought cheaper crude oils, Kuwait Oil Minister Abdul Mutalib Al Kazimi said here.

In a television interview broadcast last night, the minister said: "Defeat will be the fate of OPEC" if the present two-tier oil price system was maintained.

Kuwait was among the majority of members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries members which in December raised their prices by 10 per cent from Jan. 1 and a further five per cent on July 1.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) rejected the majority decision and opted for a five per cent increase.

Mr. Kazimi said demand was weak for Kuwaiti oil last month because producers of lighter (better quality) oils were offering theirs at cheaper rates.

But he said the fall in Kuwaiti production from the normal daily average of 1.8 million barrels was temporary and he expected output to rise this month to 1.8 million barrels a day. One reason for optimism was that buyers of Kuwaiti oil must under their contracts, balance their purchases every three months, he said.

Kuwait raised the price of its single quality crude oil to \$12.37 a barrel from Jan. 1 and has rejected demands by major buyers to reduce the quantities of oil they have contracted for.

Mr. Kazimi said the history of OPEC had proved that member states could only achieve their rights through solidarity

OPEC price unity seen

MADRID, Feb. 4 (R). — Former Venezuelan Oil Minister Juan Pablo Perez Alonso said here today he believed some oil exporting nations would be forced to cut price increases planned this year.

Senor Perez, nicknamed the "father of OPEC" (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries), told a press conference competition from cheaper Saudi Arabian oil would force some OPEC nations to reduce production or cut their price rises.

"Either way, the consequences for OPEC countries and the world will be good," Senor Perez said.

Senor Perez, who played a large part in creating OPEC, said oil exporters were extracting resources too quickly and losing revenue because of unfavourable foreign exchange rates.

"Lower price rises or reduced production can not do OPEC any harm," he said.

In Quito, meanwhile, it was announced officially last night that Ecuador will back proposals by Qatar's Oil Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Khalifa Al Thani for a return to a uniform crude oil pricing system in OPEC.

Ecuadorian Minister for Natural Resources and Energy Col. Rene Vargas said he had been informed about the proposals. He added that Ecuador would support "any OPEC policy aimed at strengthening the organisation."

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 (R). — Pan American World Airways has declared profit of \$94.6 million for last year, compared to a loss of \$46.1 million in 1975. The company said its 1976 profit included a gain of \$102.9 million for debenture exchange and \$8.4 million for extending the estimated useful life of its entire Boeing 747 jumbo jet fleet and the B-727s used in West Germany.

VIENNA, Feb. 4 (R). — The Organisation of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) Special Fund today gave interest-free loans totalling \$22.25 million to five African countries and Laos. Ghana received \$7.8 million dollars, Ethiopia \$4.8 million, Senegal \$3.4 million, Chad 2.4 million, Rwanda 1.7 million and Laos 2.15 million.

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 (AFP). — The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has postponed until March 10 any decision on whether the Anglo-French supersonic Concorde airliner is to be allowed to land at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

CAIRO, Feb. 4 (R). — China has offered to provide Egypt with economic assistance, the semi-official Al Ahram said today. The paper added the offer was made during a meeting yesterday between Egypt's minister of trade and supply and the Chinese Ambassador in Cairo. They agreed to form a joint committee of the Egyptian Trade and Economic Ministry and the Chinese embassy to work out details of the assistance.

LONDON, Feb. 4 (R). — Lonrho, the international trading group headed by Mr. Roland "Tiny" Rowland, today reported record profits of \$93.4 million for the last financial year compared with \$83.3 million for the previous year, according to figures in the annual shareholders' report.

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 4 (R). — The Swedish Inventors Association has announced a new prize worth at least 250,000 kronor (\$35,000) for those whose innovations help solve world economic and social problems, especially in developing countries. Mr. Olof Wallerius, Chairman of the 91-year-old organisation, said the first prize would be given for innovations that further regrowth of forests, speed up wood production and facilitate efficient small-scale use of firewood.

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices eked out a narrow gain Friday on the New York stock exchange where the industrial average rose a little less than one point in fairly active trading. Investors were encouraged by the announcement of a reduction from 7.8 to 7.5 per cent of the unemployment rate in January and by statistics which tended to ease the concern that the Fed might tighten its monetary policy.

Gainers led losers at the bell by a fairly wide 843 to 589 margin, as most groups of shares closed on a mixed to higher tone. Auto, paper, tire and steel issues were among the stronger groups and General Motors rose one point to 75 in active trading. On the other hand airline and computer shares were generally weak and IBM fell 3-1/8 to 268-1/4.

At the close the industrial average shows at 947.89, a gain of 0.75 points; transport at 227.78, a gain of 1.12; utilities at 108.18 a gain of 0.28. 23,130,000 shares changed hands of which 4,240,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market closed easier after a moderately active session Friday. At 15:00 the F.T. index was down 4.1 at 401.3. Thursday's Bank of England action to check the slide in interest rates prompted profit-taking, dealers said.

Government bonds were volatile, with short dated loans mixed but with a firmer bias. Longer maturities recorded occasional falls of 1/8 to 3/8.

Equity leaders fell by up to 10p. Gold shares, Australians and dollar stocks eased.

Falls of 5p to 10p were seen in Glaxo, Fisons, ICI, Bats, Bowater, Joseph Lucas, AP Cement and Thorn. Tube Investments, Guest Keen, John Brown, Burmah Oil and Tricentrol were narrowly higher.

Price of gold in London closed yesterday at \$132.45/ounce.

محلى صحت القبول